

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals Upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

STEAMING AND ROWING—AN ENGINEERING PARALLEL.

From the N. Y. Times.

One of the most remarkable features of modern steam navigation is the general substitution of the screw for the paddle. Indeed, the screw steamer has nearly driven its rivals from the stormy Atlantic, and heavy spars are most manifest, and is fast chasing them from more peaceful waters the world over.

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honest than his English analogue, who ventures nothing—does really give the valuable consideration of seats in his Cabinet, and other lucrative places of trust, in exchange for horses, houses, and cigars. Neither has Prince Arthur attained to the fulness of the stature of his mother's second son, the Duke of Edinburgh, of whom we hear, on the excellent authority of the Pull Mill Gazette, that he has the "cheek" to send in bills to Parliament, to the extent of thirty-five hundred and odd pounds sterling, for the presents which he dispensed during his sojourn in Australia.

The fact is that prices are no longer rarities to the Canadian vision. The much ado about a Prince of Wales was a tribute as much to his novelty as his station or his aptitude for filling it; and so far as it may be supposed that the last consideration entered into it, those who helped to make it have subsequently seen the unwisdom of their course, and refrain from any special fervor of demonstration at the coming of a callow stripling like Prince Arthur. They prefer waiting to see whether or not he will turn out to be "a thing to thank God on" or not. The American temper is similar. If Prince Arthur chooses to come to us, it is not likely that we shall bottle the water consecrated by use in his sacred toilet, nor that the floor of the Academy will give way under the crowd which assembles at the Academy to give him a ball.

THE PROPOSED LABOR PARTY.

From the N. Y. Sun.

That the members of the Labor Convention just held in Philadelphia, acted wisely in declining to adopt the proposition to elect a delegate to form a political party based distinctly on the interests of workingmen and opposed to those of capitalists, admits, we think, of little doubt. Nothing but the extreme necessity, such as would justify a revolution, should induce the taking of such a step. In a country like this, especially where all the avenues to wealth and honor stand open to every one alike, it is as unwise as it is wicked to attempt to foment dissensions and discord between employers and the employed. Their political interests are not antagonistic, but identical, and whichever class seeks to legislate against the other, by that very course injures itself.

The assumption is constantly made in the discussion of questions connected with the subject of labor, and too often yielded by the friends of the workingmen, and even by the workingmen themselves, that they do, in fact, occupy an inferior position in society. There is a widespread notion—the legacy of bygone ages of ignorance and mistake—that all labor is a curse, and that kind of labor most so of all which deals with material substances. In spite of our democratic talk, nine-tenths of our people are fixed in the belief that to live in idleness and have somebody else do the necessary work of the world is better than to work oneself. Every man almost is anxious to accumulate money enough to live on the income of it—which means that other people shall take and use the property that he will not and cannot use himself, and pay him enough for his expenses and even his luxuries, besides returning to him or to his children the property itself intact.

This false assumption the workingmen must themselves aid in overthrowing by their own efforts. They must not admit, or allow any one to admit on their behalf, that they deserve sympathy or compassion, or are in any way objects of pity, because they earn their living by the sweat of their brows. The capitalist who employs them should in no manner be dealt with or spoken of otherwise than as an equal, and neither envied nor hated, because he does not himself put his hand to the tasks they are engaged in. That they do not associate with him and his family when their work is done is no proof of social, much less of political inequality. Every man has a right to choose his own company, and it is proper for the mechanic to take to him as much from a sense of inferiority or unworthiness, as for the contrary reason. The time is rapidly approaching when there will be no ground for even a suspicion of contempt on either side on this account, and when the question will not be asked in social circles whether a man makes goods or sells them, or whether his work deals with bricks and wood and metal, or with pen and ink and paper, whether he works from the workshop, the counting-room, the studio, the sick room, or the court house. But the advent of that time would be greatly retarded if workingmen were to array themselves in a hostile attitude to the rest of the body politic, and openly proclaim that they were a caste by themselves. Their true course is to break down and obliterate as much as possible the distinction between themselves and other men, and not make it permanent. Let them show the nobility of soul which they really possess by their industry, their virtue, and their patriotism, and they need not trouble themselves with the fear that they may be trodden under foot because they cannot make and unmake the fortunes of political candidates.

SPAIN AND CUBA. From the N. Y. Tribune. We have no further information of special value respecting the rumored treaty for the cession of Cuba, but the French and English papers discuss the project with so much eagerness and such decided approval that we can hardly doubt Spanish agents have been manufacturing opinion favorable to the project. The easy method of solving the Cuban problem, the authority of the mother country has been so thoroughly undermined in her chief colony that it would fall to pieces if the instruction were only a little better organized, and it must be clear even to Spanish pride that the Spanish troops are losing ground every day. What hope can they have of reducing the island to obedience when they cannot even maintain a Captain-General in security, and the party which professes allegiance to the mother country is anxious to keep the government out of the hands of Quesada only because it covets power for itself?

And even if the insurrection should be quelled, Spain would find herself impoverished by a devastated and impoverished island, no longer capable of yielding the rich tribute it has paid her in past years, but costing, on the contrary, large sums for the support of a military government. In this dilemma we can easily understand how the proposals said to have been made through the agency of Mr. Forbes should be received with downright gratitude. The chief points of the scheme are that Cuba shall buy herself of Spain for the sum of \$100,000,000 in bonds guaranteed by the United States, we of course taking a mortgage upon the sovereignty of the island as security. This bears a suspicious appearance of annexation, but it saves Spain the humiliation of confessing a defeat, and relieves her of a distressed treasury of a very serious burden. She will never get anything out of Cuba again, except what she may realize by the sale of her rights of sovereignty, such as they are; and her statesmen seem to be fully aware that the longer they wait the more unsalable those rights will become. Whether the bargain would be a good one, either for Cuba or for us, is another matter altogether.

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